



June 23, 2006

Dear Friends:

This week, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives passed the *Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act*, H.R. 5638, a deficit-busting tax giveaway for the nation's wealthiest estates. This legislation should have been called the "*Add Debt on America Tax Giveaway Act*," because it provides \$800 billion in tax cuts for the 7,500 wealthiest families in our country, including an estimated 75 in Minnesota. Every dollar of this tax cut will be added directly to our national debt. With our national debt rapidly approaching \$9 trillion, and Americans growing increasingly concerned with Washington's fiscal irresponsibility, this bill provides zero benefit for 99% of taxpayers. Read the full text of [my statement opposing this latest Republican deficit-busting tax giveaway](#).

The House of Representatives was also scheduled to vote this week on the reauthorization of the historic *Voting Rights Act of 1965*. Unfortunately, the Republican majority pulled this bill from the House floor at the last minute to appease Republican extremists who are determined to weaken the law. By pulling a bill with 152 bipartisan cosponsors, Republicans are undermining the commitment of Congress to upholding this critical piece of civil rights law. Read the full text of [my statement on the delay in renewing the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act \(H.R. 9\)](#).

Last week, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki made a surprising announcement that his government was considering providing amnesty to members of the insurgency "who weren't involved in the shedding of Iraqi blood." This proposal, if enacted, would allow Iraqis who have targeted, wounded and killed U.S. troops in Iraq to be pardoned. It is wrong to even consider giving amnesty to those who are waging a deadly insurgency against members of our Armed Forces. I have joined as a cosponsor of legislation that makes it the policy of the United States to oppose efforts by the Government of Iraq to grant amnesty to persons known to have attacked, kidnapped, wounded or killed members of the Armed Forces and other citizens of the United States.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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